

THE EVENING STAR,

With Sunday Morning Edition.

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The Message and Preparedness.

This is taken from a news story: "It is understood that the President's first message to Congress, which will be delivered Tuesday, December 7, the second day of the session, will deal almost entirely with the proposed increases in the army and navy."

By putting preparedness ahead of all other issues the President will fix signal attention on it, and probably secure a measure at least of the action the country desires. As yet the problem is in the rough. Neither as to the army nor the navy increase is there agreement among the advocates of an increase as to the form it should take. After the President has spoken and the reports of the experts have been received Congress will address itself to the general subject and work out details.

Although the issue is in its essence non-partisan, and likely to prevail in Congress by votes drawn from both of the old parties, the President will make it paramount so far as his own fortunes are concerned. If not everything, he will yet stake a good deal on it in his campaign for re-election; and this fact will give him a strong leverage in his contest with the millionaires in his own party. To the extent that they fight his paramount issue they will fight him; and fighting him as President will mean in effect fighting him as the party's candidate for re-election.

It will be remembered that Mr. Cleveland, who upon taking office had pledged himself to one term, opened his campaign for renomination by making the tariff his paramount issue. The message he sent to Congress at its assembling in December, 1887, dealt only with the tariff. In that year he fixed attention upon the matter of taxation and made it the keynote for the next year, the republicans being only too glad to accept it.

But there were democrats opposed to a revenue tariff only, as there are democrats now opposed to preparedness; and they were very outspoken in and out of Congress in the expression of their views. They became so aggressive, indeed, that they frightened Mr. Cleveland, to the extent that he tried to qualify his message. Senator Gorman, with Mr. Cleveland's knowledge, and as many persons believed at his instance, went to the democratic national convention the next summer with a tariff plank which was a plain tariff straddle and tried to have it adopted. The convention, however, held Mr. Cleveland to his message, and renominated him on it. He was beaten at the polls. He would probably have been beaten anyhow, but his wabble made defeat certain.

This chapter of history has its lesson for both Mr. Wilson and his party. He should maintain himself once he takes his stand by message on preparedness; and members of his party who fight him on it will be loading shells for the use of the opposition when the battle for votes in November begins.

The effect of Carranza's recognition has evidently been to exasperate Villa to such an extent that he does not care who calls him a bandit or a looter.

Submarine commanders might be more discreet if they were compelled to read and reply to all the protests.

Mr. Taft on the Situation.

Mr. Taft—surely the best loser American politics has ever known—continues to radiate wisdom and practical suggestions. In a speech at Chicago Thursday he said:

"Present prosperity is no reason for continuing the present national administration in power. The Wilson administration was not an agency in bringing on this prosperity. Place the country in the hands of the grand old party again and prosperity will be with us to stay. The 1912 defeat of the republicans was a good thing for the party. I am able to say it because I was the first man hit. Sixteen years of power had weakened the cohesion of the republican party. The interest of groups had transcended the interest of the party as a whole. Then, guided by a wonderful personality, the break came in 1912. Those gentlemen may now stand aside and regard their handiwork—the democratic administration. They are not satisfied, and so have come back into the old party. If the proper man is selected to run, the republicans will have a good chance of victory in 1916."

This is frank, and, upon the whole, well stated. "Team work" among the republicans had ceased. No sooner did Congress meet to redeem the promises the republicans had made in the campaign of 1908 than divisions in the republican ranks appeared; and they widened until the defeat of the party occurred in November, 1912.

Since then both the party and the country have been sobering up, and prospects today are boding for a full renewal of "team work."

Mr. Taft characterizes Mr. Roosevelt as "a wonderful personality"—not an exaggeration. The man of Oyster Bay has done some remarkable things. No other man could have elected Mr. Wilson President. No other man could have led out of the republican party so many men who had never known any other affiliation. No other man could still command the support of men for a cause which is very dead.

Like many others, Mr. Taft qualifies his optimism about next year with the phrase, "if the proper man is selected to run." His first choice is Mr. Root. His second he does not name. He knows Mr. Root from intimate official and personal association, and has reached the very general appraisal of the man—that he possesses in the highest degree all the qualifications necessary to the making of a great President.

It is not understood, however, either from Mr. Taft's utterance or the utterances of others, that the republican party, as does the democratic party, stands limited as to its choice. Mr. Root is not the Woodrow Wilson of the republican situation. The republicans have other good men; and a search is now in progress for the best one—that is to say, the one who unites to the qualifications for the presidency the attractiveness of a vote-getter. As they have a full six months for the task, they ought to be able to produce the right man and stand him on the right kind of a platform.

Probing the Munitions Plots.

So grave are the charges made by the former Austrian consul at San Francisco, to the effect that Austrian consuls in this country, working under the direction of the consul general and the German ambassador, are active in the propaganda for the destruction of munitions works, that the government is justified in investigating them promptly and thoroughly.

If they are in any degree proved true a situation of extreme delicacy arises. The utilization of the diplomatic and consular forces in this country for the promotion of property-destroying plots would be a distinct violation of international law, however justified those engaged might deem themselves for the sake of their respective countries. What in an individual would be a crime, in an official representative of a foreign government would be a cause of direct and uncompromising action against that government by the United States.

The Goric charges have been emphatically and specifically denied by the Austrian embassy in this city, and similar denial may be expected from the German embassy, if it has not already been officially or unofficially made. But the case will not rest with these denials. The matter has been put in hand for direct and searching investigation. It is even intimated that the government was in full possession of the charges before they had been given publicity. Their publication serves to add to the delicacy of the situation between this government and those others whose representatives are alleged to be involved.

The repeated fires on board ships carrying munitions from the American ports and in munitions plants lately occurring are generally attributed to partisan activity. It is perfectly obvious that it is to the interest of Germany and Austria that the supply of munitions to the allies should be prevented as far as possible. But acts of forcible prevention, through the destruction of ships by bombs placed in them in port and of factories by explosives and flames, are no less than the prosecution of the European war on these shores. They cannot be tolerated. If the representatives of foreign governments are engaged in promoting such crimes they cannot be permitted to remain here. If their governments are in turn promoting their activities, the relations between them and the United States are indeed strained dangerously.

Statesmen whose constituents do not want a military equipment sufficient for preparedness should be excused for non-attendance at Congress in order to allow them to stay home and do missionary work.

Japan retained the ancient rites in crowning the mikado. But in matters of military and naval preparation her ideas remain strictly modern.

Europe may succeed in borrowing so much money that her creditors will have to step in and restore peace in order to protect their investments.

Serbia's manifest reluctance about starting the war in the first place has been fully justified by subsequent events.

Inspection of Scaffolds.

The Building Trades Council at a meeting the other night adopted resolutions demanding the appointment of an inspector of scaffolding in this city, whose business it should be to insure the erection of proper scaffold structures used by workmen in erection, repair and painting work. This action was inspired by the recent collapse of a scaffolding, killing two men. It cannot be doubted that such an inspection is desirable, and, if possible, should be maintained by the District. But it is to be remembered that the building inspection force is now inadequate for the general purposes of the District government in the enforcement of the laws and reg-

ulations governing constructions. If the Commissioners can persuade Congress to increase the inspection force for this purpose an additional safeguard may be provided. It is to be remembered, however, that according to testimony given before the corner's jury in this case the scaffold was constructed according to the accepted principle of safety and the collapse was due to a sudden shock caused by the carelessness of one of the workmen in dumping a wheelbarrow load upon the platform. No official inspection could prevent such mishaps, unless through an inspection all scaffolds could be built so strongly as to resist every possible shock in the course of the work. This would, of course, mean the presence of an inspector on every job continuously. Inasmuch as it is to the mutual interest of the employer and the workmen to be careful in the construction and use of the scaffolding, it hardly seems necessary to station a representative of the District government on each job to see that the use of the scaffold is not dangerously careless.

A nation that is peaceful and prosperous should pursue the aliteration and be prepared.

Some of Mr. Bryan's views on peace maintenance appear to be based on the metaphysical hypothesis that if you wish anything hard enough, it is bound to come true.

In many parts of the country the day has passed when a good entertainer could get before an audience and be accepted offhand as a statesman.

Even after the war is ended it may take some years to wind up the diplomatic correspondence.

Col. Bryan seems to entertain hopes of being able to tell a number of congressmen exactly what they ought to say.

No less a military authority than Kitchener is an advocate of preparedness regardless of expense.

No forecast ventures to announce just who will be doing the thanksgiving, politically speaking, a year from now.

Reductions in the cost of lighting and heating may yet be made that will make it cheaper to stay at home than to go to the movies.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Not Like the Old Days.

"Politics isn't what it used to be," remarked Senator Sorghum. "Doesn't the crowd listen to you?" "Yes. They used to be satisfied to shake hands and listen to a brass band. Now they pay so much attention to my remarks that I've got to be careful what I say."

Flotation.

With such uncertainty at sea surrounding every style of boat, A loan just now appears to be The only thing it's safe to float.

One sure way to change a knocker to a booster is to lead the conversation around so as to get him to talking about himself.

"I's got a heap o' respect foh de scientific gemmen," said Uncle Eben. "But as foh mysef, don't give me no microscope an' don't give me no telescope. I kin git all de surprises I kin stand, jes' by puttin' on my spectacles an' readin' de newspaper."

Homelike.

"Of course, we try to make you feel at home here," said the manager of the hotel.

"Well," replied Mr. Cumrox, "you succeeded. The waiters stood around and criticised the way I selected my food and handled the tableware pretty much the way the folks at home do."

Mysterious Fascination.

"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "I don't see why people play poker."

"You don't understand the game." "I'm afraid I don't. It doesn't seem sensible to me, as you describe it. There isn't any fun in playing for fun; and there certainly isn't any money in playing it for money."

A Literary Expectation.

I'm waitin', jes' waitin' as time drifts along Fur the old-fashioned paper with sentiments strong That Congress will issue each day to provide The public with facts that come from the inside. I've read lots of novels with feelin's profound, The kind summer boarders leave lyin' around. They help pass the time, while we're idlin' about, Till the good old Congressional Record comes out.

There's the place where you'll find every question explained By the finest explainers that can be obtained. When a question's discussed by those eloquent men, It has two sides at first, but it winds up with ten. Like a mystery story it thrills me with glee As I ponder and guess what the finale will be. Your pictures, your prose an' your verse I will flout When the good old Congressional Record comes out.

Prosperity Sign.

From the Chicago News. That shortage of freight cars also speaks eloquently of a prosperity now in being.

New Serving Trays, special at \$1.25. In the China Department.

Woodward & Lothrop

New York—WASHINGTON—Paris.

Learn how to make many pretty things at the Dennison demonstration—Second Floor.

Beginning Monday, and continuing until further notice, Store opens 9 A.M.; Closes 6 P.M.

A LOUIS XVI WINDOW AND DOOR DRAPERY TREATMENT

Designed by Our Skilled Decorators

Indicating the high character of the work which our staff of experts and our workrooms are capable of doing.

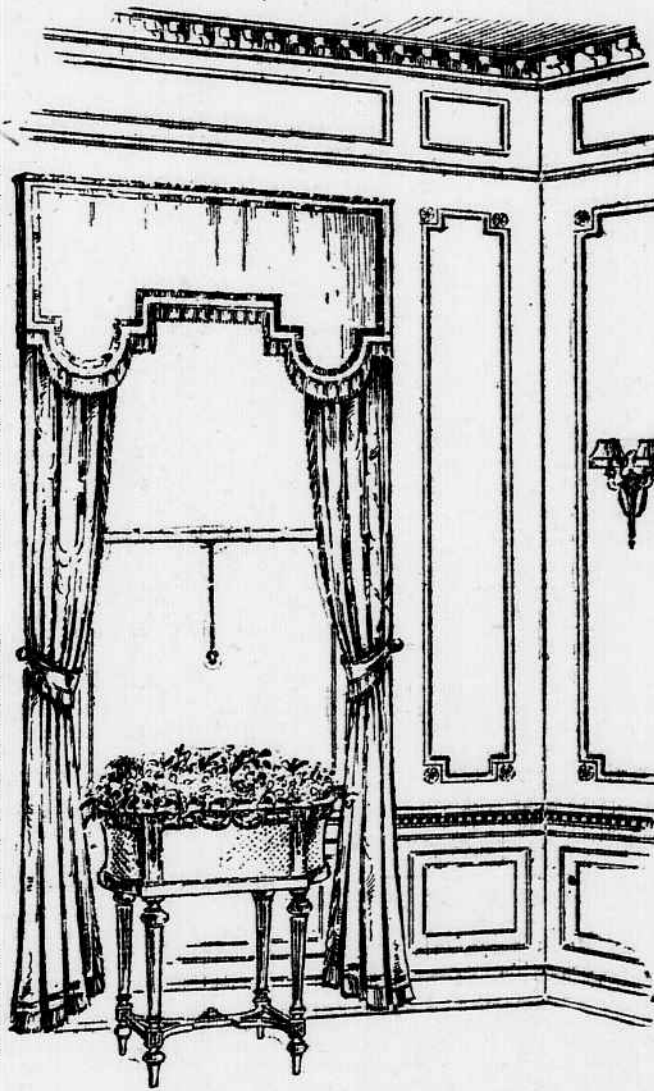
The Louis XVI is one of the most elegant and refined of the period treatments, showing a purifying of the more ornate, and giving the conventional greater emphasis; its graceful lines and motifs creating a most harmonious effect.

This Window Drapery treatment consists of the graceful Louis XVI valance, with gold galloon and silk bullion fringe edge and side draperies of rich gold velour. It is a most effective treatment that can be used in a variety of decorative schemes, and will add its measure of attractiveness to the room in which it is used. Also very appropriate for doors of reception and other rooms.

The Flower Box illustrated is of Italian walnut in the Louis XVI period, beautifully carved in relief with cane panel fronts and ends. In the natural wax or enameled finish to suit the color scheme of the room. A very dignified and elegant finish may be effected by the use of mat gold with the burnished high lights.

Our experienced decorators are competent to design any period or classic effect, whether elaborate or simple, faithful in character and tone, and carried out in the exactly correct fabrics and furniture.

Fourth floor, G street.



In the Gray Linerie Room

A Beautiful Display of Handmade French Undergarments and Silk Crepe de Chine Undergarments.

The garments are exclusive and beautiful—the finest conceptions of French and American needlewomen—unsurpassed in fabric and magnificence of style. They are displayed in the French Room, in a manner most pleasant and inviting for the women who will select them. The French Room is a bright and spacious artistic place, inclosed in gray-finished wood and furnished throughout in a soft gray tone. It is distinctly feminine and ideally arranged for privacy and leisurely selection of these "intimate" garments.

French Handmade Linerie.

FRENCH PETTICOATS, richly hand embroidered and beautifully finished with laces; \$10.50 to \$22.50 each.

FRENCH HAND-EMBROIDERED PETTICOATS, in the plain styles; \$2.00 to \$4.50 each.

ENVELOPE CHEMISES, daintily hand embroidered in floral sprays; \$3.25 to \$5.25 each.

FRENCH CORSET COVERS, elaborately hand embroidered; some trimmed with laces; \$1.50 to \$6.50 each.

FRENCH SHIRT CHEMISES, simply hand embroidered and finished with lace; \$3.25 to \$6.50 each.

FRENCH NIGHT DRESSES, in low, round, ve and square neck styles; variously trimmed; \$2.50 to \$3.50 each.

FRENCH DRAWERS, open and closed styles, with flat or fancy trimmings; \$1.25 to \$10.50 pair.

FRENCH COMBINATIONS, in blouse and princess styles, beautifully hand embroidered and lace trimmed; \$2.25 to \$10.50 each.

Third floor, F street.

Silk Crepe de Chine Linerie.

ENVELOPE CHEMISES, in white and pink; simply or elaborately trimmed; \$2.25 to \$4.75 each.

EMPIRE COMBINATIONS, drawers and bodice; trimmed with lovely valenciennes lace and insertions; \$3.50 and \$4.50 each.

GOWNS, in several very attractive styles; empire, with ve or square neck, or styles with wide shoulders of lace caught with ribbons; variously trimmed in a wealth of pretty fashions. In white, pink and blue; \$2.95 to \$10.50 each.

BODICES, simply made, or in style with deep lace around top and over shoulder, or with pointed lace medallions and short sleeves of lace; in flesh and white; \$1.00 to \$2.75 each.

PETTICOATS, elaborately trimmed with deep flounces of lace and accordion plaiting, in a variety of pretty models; \$3.95, \$5.00 and \$7.50 each.

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We Extend the Most Favorable Terms to Those Desiring Them.

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Records of your own selection.....\$5.00

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Pay \$5.00 down (for records) and \$13.00 monthly thereafter.

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VICTROLA VIII.....\$40.00
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VICTROLA IX.....\$50.00
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Records of your own selection.....\$10.00

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VICTROLA XVI.....\$200.00
Records of your own selection.....\$10.00

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WE INVITE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE DESIRABILITY OF THIS FINE JEWELRY FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS, AND SUGGEST INSPECTION AT THIS TIME.

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Watch Fobs.....	\$4.50 to \$22.50
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Waldemar Vest Chains.....	\$7.00 to \$40.00
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(Elgin, Waltham, Howard and Swiss movements.)
Gold and Silver Buckles on belts.. \$2.00 to \$18.00

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The mountings are artistically made by the most skilled workmen, with platinum points and gold shanks combined with absolutely perfect stones in color and quality.

¼ to 1½ KARAT.

Personal inspection will give an exact idea of the beauty and quality of these perfect diamond rings—each cutting and mounting is ideally adapted one to the other.

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We will have a very representative collection of these famous garments—famous for quality, for comfort, for perfect fit, for elasticity of fabric, for the variety of materials and styles which allow you to make your own choice. There is a garment made especially for you—to fit you perfectly.

The reasonable prices and the superior quality make satisfaction a certainty. "Harvard Mills" Underwear has many features of merit that are exclusive, and that are uncommonly good.

Prices range from 50c to \$3.50 the garment.

Perfect-fitting Union Suits are a specialty.

Main floor, G street.

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For Thanksgiving--Very Specially Priced.

These Tablecloths are of Pure Irish Damask in the newest designs, and splendid quality. They are very large sizes and especially suitable for family dinners at Thanksgiving time. A splendid opportunity to secure a fine large cloth at a special price.

2½x3 yards.....	\$8.00	A
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